

ROCKY BOY'S / NORTH CENTRAL MONTANA REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM PROJECT NEWS

Fourth Quarter 2010 / First Quarter 2011

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by Mary Heller

On September 23, 2010, the North Central Montana Regional Water Authority General Manger, Mary Heller, joined Chippewa Cree Tribal representatives Bruce Sun Child, Tony Belcourt and Tim Martin and AE2S CEO, Steve Burian, on a trip to the nation's Capitol to meet with members of Congress and Administration officials. The meetings stressed the need for increased annual federal funding for the Rocky Boy's/North Central Montana Regional Water System (NCMRWS) Project. Meeting highlights included:

Matthew Siegel, Program Examiner, Water and Power Branch, Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

The group described the project's progress and thanked Mr. Siegel for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds that helped greatly this past year. The need was expressed for increased funding for the project in the President's budget. The need for emergency funding for the Reservation's water system due to the recent Montana floods was also discussed.

Mr. Siegel described the resistance he faces from OMB when he advocates for increased rural water funding. He suggested the system join forces with the other authorized rural water systems and organize a joint meeting between the systems, the Congressional staffers of the members

representing the systems, and the Administration – namely the OMB, the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). Mr. Siegel indicated that the CEQ has been more influential in helping to determine funding levels in the President's budget. He believes that a joint meeting with Congressional and Administration staff will help the rural water systems' joint cause – the need for increased federal funding.

U.S. Senator, Jon Tester, and his staff, Mark Jette and Nathan Taylor

Senator Tester presented his "just signed" letter to the OMB Acting Director, requesting increased funding for the Rocky Boy's/NCMRWS Project and the Ft. Peck/Dry Prairie Rural Water System. Senator Tester warned that he fears annual funding that is earmarked by Congress will diminish in the next few years and stressed the importance of spending any and all money the system has now while inflation is low and bid prices are good. When the group mentioned Mr. Siegel's suggestion of a joint Congressional/Administration staff meeting on the topic of federal funding for authorized rural water projects, Tester was supportive and his staff volunteered to assist in requesting the meeting.

Extracting money from the Reclamation Fund as a source of money for authorized rural water

projects was discussed. Tester's staff was supportive of the idea and offered to put forth a request with the Congressional Research Service for a report on the Reclamation Fund. The information in the report should help determine if the fund is a viable source and, if so, to develop a strategy for utilizing it.

John Tubbs, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, and BOR Deputy Commissioner for Operations, Bob Quint

Tony Belcourt and Bruce Sun Child thanked the BOR for the recent announcement of \$7.6 million from unused ARRA funds for the Core System. A plea was made for roughly \$20 million in additional funds for emergency spending due to the flooding in 2010. The Tribe was asked how much it could use if the entire \$20 million isn't available. The group was warned that the ARRA funds have been fully expended.

Mr. Tubbs was especially supportive of the suggested joint Congressional/Administration staff meeting on the topic of federal funding for authorized rural water projects. He remarked that he thought it very wise for the rural water systems to visit BOR as a group last year, and the impact of such a group meeting would be even better received in the future, now that Commissioner Connor is entrenched in his position and the Administration officials are

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ARRA Funding Boosts Core System Pipeline Progress

The Rocky Boy's/NCMRWS is intended to provide a reliable source of high quality drinking water to residents throughout north central Montana and the Rocky Boy's Reservation. The Rocky Boy's/NCMRWS will provide drinking water to an area covering approximately 6.8 million acres of north central Montana.

Core Pipeline Progress

The Core System Pipeline is a major component of the Rocky Boy's/NCMRWS consisting of approximately 54 miles of 36-inch diameter steel pipe, extending from Tiber Dam to the Rocky Boy's Reservation near Box Elder, MT. The Core System Pipeline has been divided into nine segments, with each segment being approximately 6.5 miles in length. Segments #1 and #2, which lie completely in Liberty County, have been designed and construction is progressing ahead of schedule. Construction of Segment #1 of the Core System Pipeline was completed in September 2010. Pipeline crews worked throughout October and November and installed approximately 3 miles of Segment #2, for a total of approximately 9.5 miles installed. Several other activities occurred in 2010, including the installation of erosion control measures, the Cottonwood Creek crossing, and cathodic protection test stations. Pipeline installation was shut down due to the onset of winter weather in late November. However, cathodic protection activities, such as the installation of deep-well anode beds, were able to continue.

Deep-Well Anode Beds

The deep-well anode beds are a component of the cathodic protection system that was mentioned in a previous

newsletter. "Sacrificial" anodes are installed in the deep-well anode beds to a depth of approximately 300 feet. An electrical current will be forced onto the pipeline, which will cause the "sacrificial" anodes to corrode, preventing corrosion of the pipeline. The anodes will need to be replaced eventually, but it is much more economical to



Segment #2 Pipe Inside Casing Pipe (for Road Crossing) with Cathodic Protection Test Stations

replace the anodes on a planned interval than to subject the pipeline to corrosion that could potentially cause catastrophic failure.

Critical ARRA Funding

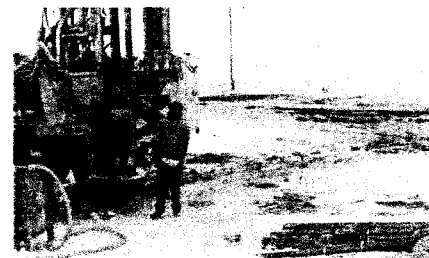
Progress on the Core System Pipeline was fueled by ARRA funding. ARRA was created in direct response to the recent economic downturn. Its goals were to create new jobs and save existing ones, spur economic activity and invest in long-term growth, and to foster accountability and transparency in government spending. The Core System portion of the Rocky Boy's/NCMRWS received approximately \$13 million of ARRA funding in 2009 for the purpose of design and construction of Segments #1 and #2 (approximately 13 miles) of the



Cottonwood Creek Crossing with Erosion Control Measures & Re seeding

Core System Pipeline. This created and/or sustained approximately 90 jobs in the north central Montana region.

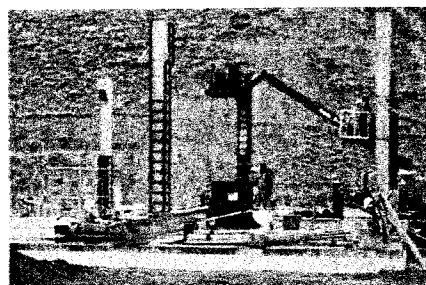
In November 2010, the Core System received an additional \$7.6 million in ARRA funding for the continued design and construction of the Core System Pipeline. The ARRA funds, along with funding received from the State of Montana, are the main reasons progress is continuing to be made on the Core System Pipeline. As a result of receiving these funds, construction of Segment



Installation of Deep-Well Anode Beds

#2 is planned to be completed in 2011. In addition, Segment #3, which will continue from the Liberty County Line into Hill County, is being designed. The Chippewa Cree Construction Corporation plans to construct Segment #3 in 2011 as funding allows.

Intake Superstructure Progress



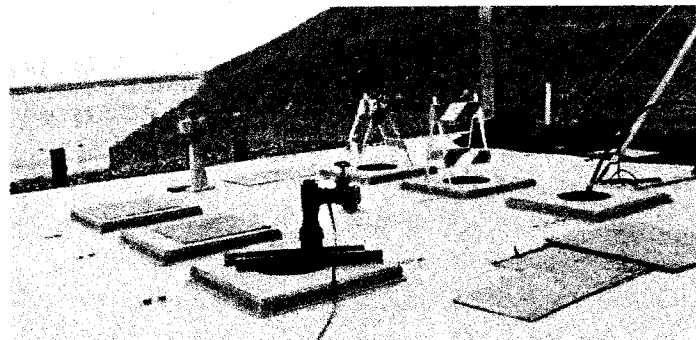
Structural Columns on Perimeter of Pump Room

The Intake Superstructure near Tiber Dam will house raw water pumps that draw raw water from Lake Elwell and lift it to the Core System Water Treatment Plant. The building will be comprised of an electrical room and a pump room sitting atop an intake caisson, which has already been constructed. The electrical room

and pump room are both complete to finished grade, and construction of the structural "shell" is progressing and will be completed by the September 2011 ARRA deadline.

The pump room has six structural columns around its perimeter.

Construction of the columns began in October of 2010, and concrete was poured in November 2010. A masonry kickoff meeting was held in December 2010 and masonry construction continues during the winter months.



Intake Superstructure Pump Bases

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rocky Boy's/North Central Montana Regional Water System Coordinating Committee Meetings
Meeting Times to be Announced
Feb 15
May 17

North Central Montana Regional Water Authority Executive Committee Meetings
Meeting Times to be Announced
Feb 15
Mar 15
Apr 19
May 17

North Central Montana Regional Water Authority Quarterly Meeting
1:30 pm (tentative) at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Chester, MT
Mar 15

NCMRWA Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting for the North Central Montana Regional Water Authority was held on October 19, 2010. During the meeting, elections were held for the five-member Executive Committee, and the results of the elections are as follows:

- **President**
Larry Bonderud (Shelby)
- **Vice President**
Shaud Schwarzbach (Big Sandy)
- **Treasurer**
Cheryl Curry (Conrad)
- **Secretary**
Jim Suta (Cut Bank)
- **At-Large**
Rob Moog (Hill CWD)

Bill McCauley (Cut Bank), whose year of service as Secretary of the Executive Committee is greatly appreciated, did not seek reelection. A special thank you is extended to Dan Keil (Tiber CWD) for his many years of service as President and memorable commitment to the Rocky Boy's/NCMRWS Project. Bill McCauley and Dan Keil will continue to represent their respective water systems as Directors of the North Central Montana Regional Water Authority.

New NCMRWA Contact Info.

The North Central Montana Regional Water Authority has new telephone and fax numbers:

Office:
(406) 265-3249
Fax:
(406) 265-2027
Cell:
(406) 399-0640

Featured User: City of Cut Bank

The City of Cut Bank treats surface water from Cut Bank Creek to provide water to approximately 4,500 area residents, with growth projections indicating a potential service population of about 6,000. Cut Bank Creek experiences very low stream flows, particularly during drought. Although water quantity has not been an issue in the past year or so, a persistent drought has plagued the region for an extended period of time, causing water supply concerns and pumping problems at low stream flows. Raw water pumping problems occur when stream flow in Cut Bank Creek drops below 20 cubic feet/second (cfs). Since 1986, stream flow in Cut Bank Creek has dropped below 20 cfs for more than 40 consecutive days on

18 occasions. Very low stream flows prompt the City to consider the enforcement of water restrictions.

The City operates a conventional surface water treatment facility constructed in 1964 with major refurbishments in 1975 and 2001. As a surface water system, future compliance with the myriad of surface water treatment and disinfection by-product (DBP) regulations is also a concern. The City of Cut Bank is participating in the Rocky Boy's/NCMRWS Project to secure a long-term water supply to address its projected population growth, chronic water quantity challenges, and potential impacts associated with surface water regulations.

Tiber Service Area Bid Results

On September 1, 2010, competitive bids were received for the Non-Core System Segment E1-A: Tiber Service Area. Nine bids were received. The bids ranged from \$2,607,083 to \$3,556,872, and the Engineer's estimate was \$3,442,126. The construction contract was awarded to Western Municipal Construction, Inc. of Billings, MT (low bid), and construction activities commenced on November 1, 2010. The project consists of approximately 41 miles of pipeline ranging in size from 4 inches to 10 inches in diameter, which will convey water from Tiber County Water District (CWD) to South Chester CWD and Riverview

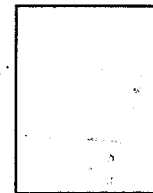
Colony. South Chester CWD and Riverview Colony have been under Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regulatory enforcement action due to their respective water sources being deemed Ground Water Under the Direct Influence of Surface Water. Tiber CWD will provide interim water service to South Chester CWD and Riverview Colony until the initial phase of the Core System Water Treatment Plant (WTP) is completed. Construction of the Tiber Service Area Project is scheduled for substantial completion by October of 2011, with final completion scheduled for the spring of 2012.



Construction of 10-inch Pipeline

AE2S

Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.
300 15th Street South, Suite 107
Great Falls, MT 59405-2456



First Name Last Name

Address

City, State Zip

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no longer new to their positions. Further, the group approached the subject of the Reclamation Fund as a source for future funding for the authorized rural water systems. Tubbs remarked that Commissioner Connor is the expert on extracting money from the Reclamation Fund, but he acknowledged that there were many requests and suggested it would likely be difficult to do.

U.S. Representative, Denny Rehberg, and his staffer, Eric Bierwagon

The group asked Congressman Rehberg if House Republicans will be able to request earmarked projects next year. Rehberg referred to the released-that-day Republican Pledge that specifically did not mention the House GOP ban on earmarks. Further, Rehberg said he personally supports funding for projects that have been authorized, such as the Rocky Boy's/NCMRWS Project. The group thanked Congress-

man Rehberg for his recent letter to Administration officials requesting increased Presidential funding for the Rocky Boy's/NCMRWS. Project need for future funding at a higher level was discussed.

U.S. Senator, Max Baucus, and his staffer, Will Sehestedt

The need for future federal funding was once again discussed. Senator Baucus supported a group meeting with Administration officials to determine how to fund and finish rural water projects. Senator Baucus talked about the general need for Americans to tighten their belts and commented on a recent article that stated America has been living "high on the hog" when compared to its European counterparts. The article went on to state that the recession is an indicator of how America needs to return to reality and spend less money. He warned that federal funding is being cut, and

he believes the budgets will grow smaller over the next few years. He is very supportive of the Rocky Boy's/NCMRWS Project, but his outlook for the nation's economy and budget was rather bleak. The group shared news of the 2010 summer floods and of the success in spending roughly \$30 million during the last year on construction. Will Sehestedt said that Baucus would soon sign a letter to Administration officials requesting increased funding for the Rocky Boy's/NCMRWS Project.

Robyn Colosimo, Deputy Associate Director for Natural Resources, and Lauren Leuck, Fellow, at the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)

Steve Burian, George Waters, and Jennifer Jarrell met with the CEQ representatives and were able to educate them on the Rocky Boy's/NCMRWS Project and the need for future federal funding. Ms. Colosimo and Ms.

Leuck are working on revising and updating the Principles and Guidelines of the National Environmental Policy Act and anticipate that the Principles and Guidelines will play an important role in the development and prioritization of water projects in the future. The CEQ representatives appreciated the group taking the time to meet with them and felt an annual meeting frequency to keep them updated would be appropriate.

Conclusion

The meetings were once again a great opportunity to thank delegation members, delegation staffers, and agency officials for their support of the Rocky Boy's/NCMRWS Project and to stress the need for future federal funding. A couple of promising opportunities to aid in the pursuit of funding were identified and will be explored.